AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following list of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for the therapeutic ~~or prophylactic~~ treatment of a subject suffering from ~~or subject to a risk of~~ imbalanced colon fermentation, said method comprising administering to a subject suffering from ~~or subject to a risk of~~ lactic acid accumulation in the colon ~~due to imbalanced colon fermentation~~ a lactic acid-reducing amount of polydextrose in a food product ~~selected from the group consisting of yogurt, baby's milk formula, sour milk, curdled milk, dry milk and crout containing polydextrose in an amount which is effective in preventing accumulation of lactic acid by sustaining and controlling fermentation throughout the colon of said subject~~.

2.-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is effective in reducing the pH throughout the colon without accumulation of lactic acid.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is additionally effective in reducing putrefactive fermentation throughout the colon.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is additionally effective in increasing the amount of butyrate throughout the colon.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is effective in increasing tolerance to probiotic lactic acid bacteria by preventing accumulation of lactic acid in the colon.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is effective in reducing lactic acid induced lactose intolerance by preventing accumulation of lactic acid in the colon.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is effective in reducing lactic acid induced food allergy by preventing accumulation of lactic acid in the colon.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is effective in reducing lactic acid induced celiac disease by preventing accumulation of lactic acid in the colon.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is effective in reducing the risk of lactic acid induced inflammatory diseases in the colon by preventing accumulation of lactic acid in the colon.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is additionally effective in normalizing the microbial community throughout the colon by preventing accumulation of lactic acid in the colon.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in combination with at least one polyol.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein said polydextrose and said polyol are administered in synergistic effective amounts to prevent the accumulation of lactic acid throughout the colon.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein said polyol is selected from the group consisting of lactitol, xylitol, maltitol, sorbitol and isomalt.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein said polyol is lactitol.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said subject is selected from the group consisting of human beings, pet animals, farm animals, laboratory animals and zoo animals.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said subject is selected from the group consisting of a young mammal at the age of weaning, a young mammal suffering from milk crust, a mammal treated with antibiotics, a mammal having sensitivity to

lactose, a mammal suffering from celiac disease, a mammal suffering from food allergy and an aged mammal.

21.-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said food composition is a sour milk product.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is hydrogenated polydextrose.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is purified.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is selected from the group consisting of non-hydrogenated polydextrose, hydrogenated polydextrose and non-hydrogenated or hydrogenated polydextrose which has been subject to purification and mixtures thereof.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the weight ratio of said polyol to said polydextrose ranges from about 1:10 to 10:1.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein polydextrose and polyol are added to said food product in synergistic effective amounts to prevent the accumulation of lactic acid throughout the colon of a mammal, and the food containing said polydextrose and polyol is administered to a mammal.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein polydextrose and polyol are added to said food product in synergistic effective amounts to reduce putrefactive fermentation in the colon of a mammal when food containing said polydextrose and polyol is administered to a mammal.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein the ratio of polyol to polydextrose is from 1:5 to about 5:1.